PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re application of: |) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hideki SADAKATA et al |) Group Art No. TBA |
| Serial No.: TBA |) Examiner: TBA |
| Filed: February 27, 2004 |) Docket No: 000407.00027 |

For: VENDING MACHINE AND PORTABLE RECORDING MEDIUM HAVING RECORDED THEREIN OPERATION DATA TRANSFER PROGRAM FOR VENDING MACHINE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Applications Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicants submit herewith Form PTO-1449, identifying information for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of the items of information is enclosed.

Applicants do not waive any rights to take appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as a reference against the claims of the present application.

Consideration of the cited information and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-noted application are respectfully requested. Should the Patent and Trademark Office determine that a fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: February 27, 2004

By: Brian E. Hanlon

Brian E. Hanlon

Registration No. 40,449

1001 G Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001-4597

(202) 824-3000

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | | | Complete if Known | | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE | | | CLOSURE | Application Number | TBA | | | |
| STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) | | Filing Date | February 27, 2004 | | | | | |
| | | First Named Inventor | Hideki SADAKATA | | | | | |
| | | Group Art Unit | TBA | | | | | |
| | | Examiner Name | TBA | | | | | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | 000407.00027 | | | |

| | U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Examiner Initials * | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date | | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant | |
| | | Number - Kind Code ² (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY | | Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | |
| | | US-6,498,965 | 12/24/2002 | Matsumoto et al | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| • | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | , | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |
| | | US- | | | | |

| | FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Foreign Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | |
| | | Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (<i>if known</i>) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | | | T⁵ |
| | | JP 10-198845 | 07/31/1998 | | | ABS |
| | | JP 05-089325 | 04/09/1993 | | | ABS |
| | | JP 05-054253 | 03/05/1993 | | | ABS |
| | ļ | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | - | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| Examiner | Date |
|-----------|------------|
| Signature | Considered |

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) . ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.
³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.